

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04034 011636Z

43

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 FBIE-00 AID-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /047 W

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O 011615Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8791

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4034

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PORS, CI

SUBJECT: SHOOTING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

1. SUMMARY: EARLY MORNING MAY 1 PISTOL SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM FAST MOVING CAR TOWARD AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. NO ONE HURT; NO DAMAGE. FOLLOW UP CAR WAS STOPPED BY POLICE FIRE; SINGLE OCCUPANT WAS ARRESTED AND IS BEING QUESTIONED BY GOC SECURITY FORCES. INCIDENT COULD HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATION, POSSIBLY CONNECTED TO MAY DAY. EMBASSY TIGHTENING UP SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CURFEW AT 3:40 MORNING OF MAY 1, FAST MOVING CAR WITH THREE OCCUPANTS PASSED IN FRONT OF AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE (UNOCCUPIED IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE), AND SEVERAL PISTOL SHOTS WERE FIRED. CARABINERO (UNIFORMED NATIONAL POLICE) AND EMBASSY SECURITY GUARD ON DUTY AT GATE HOUSE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO RETURN FIRE. NO PROJECTILE WAS FOUND; NO ONE HURT AND NO DAMAGE.

3. SECOND CAR WITH DRIVER SOLE OCCUPANT FOLLOWED IN FIVE MINUTES, MOVING SLOWLY AND DRIVER LOOKING OVER SCENE. CARABINERO OPENED FIRE WITH SUBMACHINE GUN, BLEW OUT REAR TIRES OF CAR. UNARMED DRIVER WAS ARRESTED UNHURT.

4. DRIVER NOW BEING INTERROGATED BY DIRECTORATE OF
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04034 011636Z

NATIONAL SECURITY (DINA). WE ARE INFORMED HE IS 22-YEAR-OLD

UNIVERSITY STUDENT MARCOS ANTONIO URRRA GONZALEZ. INTERROGATION
MAY TAKE SOME TIME; EMBASSY IS ASSURED OF REPORT.

5. COMMENT: CARABINEROS SPECULATE THAT INCIDENT WAS MOUNTED
BY MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), SINCE IT FOLLOWED
MIR PATTERN OF ADVANCE CAR FIRING AND SECOND CAR SURVEYING
DAMAGE. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF MIR COMPLICITY AND ARE
RESERVING JUDGMENT.

6. ALSO, WE CANNOT YET JUDGE WHETHER INCIDENT WAS SERIOUS
ATTEMPT TO KILL OR MERELY DEMONSTRATION. IN FAVOR OF LATTER
SPECULATION IS USE OF PISTOLS RATHER THAN AUTOMATIC WEAPONS,
AMATEURISH USE OF FOLLOW UP CAR (IF INDEED SECOND CAR WAS
PART OF PLOT), AND FACT THAT MAY 1 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF
LABOR, WITH GOC TRYING TO PROMOTE TAME CEREMONIES. SOME
ANTI-GOVERNMENT PAMPHLETS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED, AND WE
HEAR THAT ANTI-TIRE SPIKES HAVE BEEN THROWN ON SOME STREETS.

7. PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION ON SERIOUSNESS OF INCIDENT,
EMBASSY IS TIGHTENING ITS SECURITY MEASURES. WE ESTIMATE
THAT BASIC SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS GOOD, BUT NOTE THAT
THIS WAS FIRST REAL INCIDENT AGAINST AMERICANS SINCE COUP;
BULLETS WERE REAL, AND TARGET INVOLVED AMBASSADOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRORISTS, ANTIAMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA04034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760167-0405
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604106/aaaadngk.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHOOTING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PORS, PDIP, CI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006